

- Set a time limit for children to trick or treating. Together, map out a safe route so you know where they will be. Remind them not to take short cuts through backyards, alleys, or playing fields.
- Try to get kids to trick or treating while it is still light out. If these events are celebrated at night, make sure a couple of people are carrying a flashlight that works.

PRANKS THAT CAN BE A LITTLE TRICKY

Halloween is notoriously a night of pranks such as toilet papering a house or filling mailboxes with shaving cream are not unusual. Try to get a handle on your children's plans before they go out. Explain to them that while you want them to have a good time, some tricks could hurt other children or vandalize property. Emphasize that you disapprove of vandalism.

Eating the Treats

- Kids need to know not to eat their treat until they get home. One way to keep trick or treating from digging in while they're still out is to feed them a meal or substantial snack beforehand.
- Check out all treats at home in a well lighted place.
- What to eat? Only unopened candies and other treats that are in their original wrappers. Don't forget to inspect fruit and homemade goodies for anything suspicious. By all means, remind kids not to eat everything at once or they'll be feeling pretty ghoulish for awhile.



Crime Prevention tips from:

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CRIME™**

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Prepared and Printed by the
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PCSD-95 Rev. 10 / 08

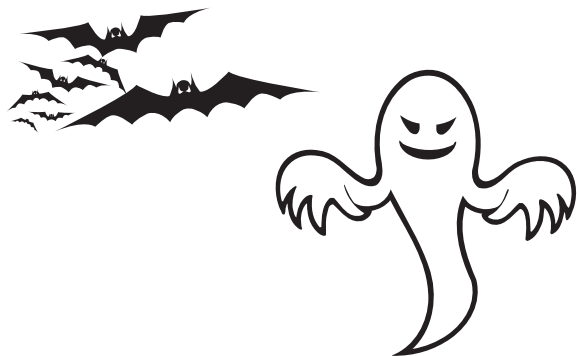
PLAYING IT SAFE ON HALLOWEEN



POINTERS
FOR
PARENTS



Halloween may be fun a holiday for kids, but for parents, trick or treating time can be a little troublesome. Concerns about children's safety, whether they are out in the neighborhood or back at home with bountiful bags of goodies can cast a spell on that festivity. However, not to worry! Following a few safety tips will ensure that Halloween will be a "howling" good time for all.



"Un-haunting" Your House and the

Neighborhood

- Welcome trick or treating at home by posting a sign welcoming them.
- Remove objects from your yard that might present a hazard to visitors.
- Ask your Neighborhood Watch or citizens' group to patrol the community.
- Involve students from local college or university to be "witch's helpers." These students will help trick or treating children to cross busy streets and watch out for ghoulish behavior.
- Drive slowly at the designed time for the trick or treating.
- Report any suspicious or criminal activity to your local police department.

CONSIDER THIS

Parents and kids can avoid trick or treating troubles entirely by organizing a Halloween costume party with treats, games, contests music, scary stories, and much more. Make your Halloween party the place to be! Schools, fire stations, libraries, even malls in many communities organize "haunted houses" and other festivities for families.



Making Safe Costumes

- Check that costumes are flame retardant so the children aren't in danger near candles-lit jack lanterns and other fire hazards.
- Keep costumes short to prevent trips, falls, and other bumps in the night.
- Encourage kids to wear comfortable shoes.
- Try make-up instead of a mask. Masks can be hot and uncomfortable. Also, more importantly, they can obstruct a child's vision which is dangerous thing when kids are crossing streets, and going up and down the steps.
- Make sure kids wear light colors or put reflective tape on their costumes especially if it is dark.

DRESSED UP AND DANGEROUS?

Halloween blood and gore are harmless stuff for the most part. However, sometimes dressing up as a superhero, a scary monster, or a slimy alien from outer space which coupled with the excitement of Halloween brings out aggressive behavior. Also, fake knives, swords, and guns and other costume accessories can accidentally hurt people. If these objects are part of a child's costume, make sure they are made from cardboard or other flexible material. Moreover, better yet challenge kids to create costumes that do not need "weapons" to be scary and fun.

Preparing Ghosts and Goblins For Their Tricks and Treats

- Make sure older kids go out with friends. Younger children should be accompanied by an adult. If you live in a rural area, offer all kids a ride in the car.
- Remind kids not to enter a stranger house or car.